

## Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 DHA-02 AID-05 OPR-02 /067 W

----- 110382

O R 121116Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3882

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 3077

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFORN, PINS, SHUM, SOPN, NI, US

SUBJECT: EXECUTION OF COUP PLOTTERS AND POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FROM

U.S. PRESS

REF: LAGOS 3057

1. IN THE EVENT THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING GUIDANCE IN EXPECTATION  
OF PRESS INQUIRIES CONCERNING YESTERDAY'S PUBLIC EXECUTION OF THE

NIGERIANS THUS FAR FOUND GUILTY OF COMPLICITY IN LAST MONTH'S ABORTIVE

COUP, THE EMBASSY IS PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS  
BEING OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE.

2. THE TRIALS OF THOSE EXECUTED WERE CONDUCTED BY A SPECIAL  
MILITARY TRIBUNAL SET UP IN MID-FEBRUARY BY DECREE OF NIGERIA'S  
RULING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) AND TOOK PLACE "IN CAMERA."  
THE FINDINGS OF THE TRIBUNAL ARE FINAL SUBJECT ONLY TO CONFIRMATION  
BY THE SMC.

3. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED  
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THAT THE EXECUTIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE, BRIGADIER SHEHU YAR'ADUA,

CHIEF OF STAFF,SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, MADE THE FOLLOWING  
ADDITIONAL POINTS:

(A) 125 INDIVIDUALS ( INCLUDING A FEW CIVILIANS) HAD BEEN  
ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF INVOLVEMENT INTHE ABORTIVE COUP.  
EACH CASE WAS FIRST EXAMINED BY AN INVESTIGATIVE PANEL.  
THOSE PERSONS AGAINST WHOM PRELIMINARY CASES WERE ESTABLISHED WERE  
REFERRED TO THE TRIBUNAL FOR TRIAL. AS A RESULT OF THESE INVESTIGA-  
TIONS AND TRIALS, 40 INDIVIDUALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED, 32  
SENTENCED TO DEATH AND ONE GIVEN LIFE IMPRRISONMENT. THE INVESTIGA-  
  
TIONS AND TRIALS OF THE OTHERS ARE CONTINUING.

(B) THE SMC HAD CONFIRMED THE TRIBUNALS'S FINDINGS ONN THE 33 YES-  
TERDAY MORNING.

(C) STANDARD MILITARY AND CIVIL LEGAL PROCESSES WERE USED TO  
ADDUCE EVIDENCE.

(D) WITNESSES WERE CALLED AND EACH DEFENDANT WAS GIVEN AMPLE  
OPPORTUNITY TO CALL IN WITNESSES OR REFUTE EVIDENCE AGAINST  
HIM.

4. PUBLIC EXECUTITONS ARE STANDARD PRACTICE IN NIGERIA.  
EASUM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, PLOTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LAGOS03077  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760094-0410  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760367/aaaachdx.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LAGOS 3057  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
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**Review Date:** 01 JUL 2004  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXECUTION OF COUP PLOTTERS AND POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FROM U.S. PRESS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, SHUM, SOPN, NI, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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